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Country cooperation frameworks and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Honduras

Note by the Administrator

Period of extension:
1 January 2001-31 December 2001

I. Background and justification

1. The first country cooperation framework for Honduras was approved by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1997. The Government has requested a one-year extension of the current country cooperation framework 1998-2000 in order to allow the new CCF period to be synchronized with the programming cycles of other United Nations organizations in the country. The main thematic areas are: (a) poverty eradication; (b) governance; and (c) sustainable development.

II. Objectives

A. Poverty eradication

2. A series of studies on poverty begun by the Poverty Initiative concluded in 1999 with the preparation of the social diagnosis and a study of social expenditures. These products paved the way for articulation of an integral poverty eradication strategy by UNDP. A strategic alliance with the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) process is expected in 2001. In the area of basic services, UNDP assisted in the implementation of large education and health programmes funded by the World Bank. Delivery in these areas more than tripled in 1999. The education programme was particularly crucial in speeding up the rehabilitation of the school system and in ensuring the commencement of the 1999 school year in March. Throughout this experience, strategic alliances with the different ministries, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have been strengthened, paving the way

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for UNDP to assist in the preparation of sectoral-reform programmes, which are under way.

3. In the course of 2001, and in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), two projects promoting sustainable rural development, combining the municipal strengthening programme for smaller and poorer municipalities, will be consolidated to provide an opportunity to build capacity for sustainable development at the local level.

B. Governance

4. Through support to national execution, UNDP played a major role in the implementation of reconstruction projects. Through the programme in support of the strengthening of democratic governance and the advancement towards social equity, financed by the Swedish Government, UNDP is assisting in strengthening democratic institutions, such as the Prosecutor's Office and Congress.

5. To further develop the programme in this area, strategic alliances will undoubtedly have to be strengthened during the CCF extension period. Furthermore, UNDP support to decentralization will be expanded to smaller and poorer municipalities. Greater support will also go to the justice sector in close cooperation with the Danish Agency for International Development (DANIDA). The year 2000 census will take place in the last quarter of the year 2001 and as the decree creating the National Institute for Woman was just recently approved, it is expected to be established during the course of 2001.

C. Sustainable development

6. Hurricane Mitch created many new opportunities for projects and also increased the level of awareness on environmental issues, as well as in other areas, such as risk management, disaster prevention, and watershed management. Several major initiatives are expected to be implemented in 2001, including the joint initiative with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration on climatic change. The strengthening of national capacities on risk management to mitigate the impact of natural disasters will likewise be promoted, in partnership with the World Bank, while strategic alliances with IDB watershed-management projects are expected to crystallize during the CCF extension period.

7. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for a period of one year beginning on 1 January 2001.